(ii) Encouraging farm forestry for supply of raw material to paper and other industry.

(iii) Import of wood chips and pulp has been liberalised.

(iv) Time bound action plans have been formulated for compliance to the prescribed standards for pollution control for all identified polluting categories of industries including paper industry.

(v) Standards for water consumption and waste water discharge have been laid down for pulp and paper units and the cess payable by these units is based upon the compliance of these standards.

Creating an ecological task force of ex-servicemen for Himachal Pradesh

1713. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for creating an Ecological Task Force of ex-servicemen for Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, when and what action has been taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the proposal for creating an Eco-Task Force of ex-servicemen in J&K was received later than from Himachal Pradesh and has already been sanctioned; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A proposal for creating an Ecological Task Force for Himachal Pradesh was received in 1982. Action for establishing the Eco-Task Force in Himachal Pradesh could not be taken due to paucity of funds.

(c) and (d) The Ecological Task Force of Jammu & Kashmir was established as a special case and as a part of the special package of programmes approved for the State in 1987.

Setting up of a Biosphere Resource

1714. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Biosphere Reserve for conservation of biological diversity in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has proposed that the Great Himalayan National Park, Pin Valley National Park, Spiti and Kibber-Parang Valley adjoining Ladakh to be designated as a Biosphere Reserve. The proposal has been referred to the National Committee on Biosphere Reserves for advice.

Poaching in Tiger Resort

1715. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one high ranking IAS Officer in Rajasthan was apprehended for Poaching in Tiger Resort;

(b) what action Government propose to take against this officer to set example against poaching; and

(c) whether Government would confiscate all arms within the periphery of tiger resorts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.